

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The New Klement Gottwald Foundry plant at Kuncice nad Ostravice is situated south of the city of Moravska Ostrava near the Ostravice River on an area of 2 1/2 by 3 km., bordered on the south by the railroad from Ostrava to Frydek, with a station at Kuncice nad Ostravice. East of the foundry are open fields, in the north is the village of Bartovice and in the west open fields again. The construction of this foundry was commenced during World War II in 1940. From 1945 until 1948 the building went very slowly. Only in 1948 was work intensified, upon Russian orders. Now this foundry is to replace the Vitkovice Klement Gottwald Iron Works, which are to be closed down because they have been undermined by coal fields. 25X1

2. The Electrical Installation Works (Elektromontazni zavody) of Prague has a branch in the New Klement Gottwald Foundry. Eng. Simek (fnu) was an inspector of this branch, and Bradac (fnu) was chief fitter.

3. [] the number of employees of the foundry at 10,000; about 5% of them are women. 25X1

4. Wages differ a lot according to employment, i.e. whether one receives time or piece-wages. Average wages of brigade workers are 13 Kcs. per hour. The best paid group are electric fitters, whose wages amount to 6,000 to 12,000 Kcs. per month, according to ability. A decorator in the main switching centers and power-station received the average monthly pay of 7,000 to 9,000 Kcs. Extra premiums for finishing jobs ahead of time are also given. These are rather high, amounting to as much as 10,000 Kcs. [] 40 Kcs. to URO (Central Council of Trade Unions), 400 to 600 Kcs. health insurance and 200 to 300 Kcs. income tax. 25X1

5. A worker who did not get extra ration cards for heavy labor was not entitled to eat in the canteen. He had to bring his ration cards from home and buy additional snacks. 25X1

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25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC					
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "##".)

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6. A man working in the main power station and in the switching centers subordinated to it did not have access to the production workshop. [redacted] the daily output in the pipe rolling mill (Department 28) was 6 to 7 carloads of 12 to 15 meter metal oil pipes for export to the USSR marked with Russian letters and white stripes. The pipe was loaded on flatcars and shipped direct to the USSR. 25X1 25X1
7. The following workshops were in production:
 - a. Blast furnace.
 - b. Steel shop.
 - c. Pipe rolling mills.
 - d. Foundry
 - e. Machine room (constructed during World War II).
8. The foundry is powered by electricity only, which is supplied by its own power station and the power stations of Vitkovice Elektrarny. Voltage is 6,000 V. and low voltage 500 V.
9. The foundry was not damaged during World War II. During the war the foundry had only one machine room. All other parts were built after 1945. The foundry is being constantly enlarged and employs about 5,000 workmen. Its completion is planned within 20 years. Individual departments, such as profile rolling mills, sheet rolling mills, wire workshop, etc., are to be put into production in the near future.
10. Security is in the hands of the works militia, who guard the foundry during the night. Two or three guards in black uniforms, equipped with pistols, are in the gatekeeper's room. Admission of employees to the production workshops is permitted only after producing a pass issued by the security department.
11. The morale of employees in the foundry is not high. It improved before Christmas 1951, when they were to get large premiums, but after Christmas, when the promises of premiums were only partly fulfilled, working morale deteriorated. Christmas 1951 was the dead line for finishing certain tasks according to the plan. Workers of some departments worked overtime, sometimes even 36 hours without interruption, in order to beat the dead line. Such hurried work resulted in defects and the Ministry of Heavy Machinery gave instructions to cancel all time limits and also premiums for finished jobs. This made the workers lose enthusiasm.
12. A great number of workers steal non-ferrous metals, precious metals and other building and production material. One Communist, for instance, who needed copper for repairing his laundry boiler, used every opportunity for stealing it from the works. Such thieves usually escape through gaps in the fence. Sabotage in the works occurred frequently. On 1 May 1952 steel was spilled from a Martin furnace. Employees blamed defective equipment but it was common knowledge among workers that it was an act of sabotage. Another case occurred in the switching center. Instruments were filled with glass, which prevented their working and caused delay in production until they were cleaned and tested.
13. Another time, electric cables to measuring instruments in the switching center of the castings shop were cut. Cables had to be replaced.
14. [redacted] in the departments working for export to the USSR there was a specialist who controlled finished products. This person was responsible for the quality and therefore marked each single product with his number and mark. During inspections in the plant one could often hear Russian conversation. 25X1
15. The switching center of the castings shop was badly planned and began to collapse, so that it had to be supported by braces. Even today the floor is not quite level and cracks are noticeable.

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16. In one of the buildings a boiler was to be installed, but it was discovered that the building was too narrow and had to be rebuilt. Almost all material comes by rail from the Kuncice station in the northeast; in the center of the building area there is a passenger railroad station which also handles raw materials and finished products. These tracks run in the direction of Fryden, and on the other side in the direction of Moravska Ostrava, to the main railroad station at Privoz, whence goods are shipped to the USSR.
17. In the area of the foundry there are narrow-gauge tracks for transporting material to the building site. For moving light products in the production halls electric cars are used.
18. There is fairly good railroad service to the works for employees, but most of them commute by bus. Permanent workers are accommodated in well equipped masonry huts with bathrooms and washrooms. Two to six men live in one room, while temporary workers, lent by other plants as brigade workers or experts, live in poorly furnished hutments. Very few of them have a bathroom; one washroom is shared by all and the toilets are not sanitary. 8 to 10 men sleep in one room, and in the space where permanent workers had one bed only there are three bunks one above the other. In these lodgings live about 3,000 employees, while the rest are accommodated in the so-called Osada Miru (Peace Colony), which is on the road from Kuncice to Ostrava and linked with the foundry by bus. The management deducts 5 to 10 Kcs. per day from wages for accommodations.
19. All the staff, officials and women, eat in the canteen. Ration cards have to be surrendered for meals - with the exception of brigade-workers, who are allowed free meals for one month. There are about eight canteens in the plant. Quality of food is poor. Only a few workers buy breakfast; they mostly save their cards for other meals. The heavy workers have an abundance of ration cards and often sell them to others.
20. Prisoners are working on the construction of the plant. A wooden prisoner-camp is situated on the banks of the River Ostravice, about 1 km. from the foundry.
21. The production program was generally fulfilled 100%.
22. There is no regular political schooling on account of the chaos and rush in the foundry. Communists were of course urged to take part in various lectures but they mostly avoided them with the excuse that they worked 12 to 16 hours per day.
23. Great stress is laid on professional courses to train qualified workers such as carpenters, masons, etc.

Annexes :

- (A) Legend to sketch of the New Foundry Kl. Gottwald, Ostrava-Kuncice (1 page)
- (B) Sketch of the New Foundry Kl. Gottwald, Ostrava-Kuncice (1 page)

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At Annex A

LEGEND

1. Railroad station Ostrava-Kuncice.
2. Machine-shop Kuncice (old part).
3. Camp for brigade workers and some old employees.
4. Administrative building.
5. Brook.
6. Works security department.
7. Masonry buildings (for civilians).
8. Mill
9. Canteen.
10. Gatekeeper's lodge.
11. Pond (drained at the end of May).
12. Gatekeeper's lodge.
13. Store of wooden material.
14. Works management offices.
15. Wooden huts: workshops, cloak-rooms, storage of material.
16. Store of EZ Works and their offices.
17. Coolers in operation and under construction.
18. Workshops, cloak-rooms.
19. Main power station.
20. Storage of coal dust and feeder of coal to the power station.
21. Canteens, offices, stores of tools.
22. Foundations to new building.
23. Storage of building material; concrete, iron.
24. Offices.
25. Masonry building, six or seven stories high.
26. Offices of individual departments.
28. Pipe rolling mill.
29. Unknown building.
30. Unknown building.
31. Switching center of the steel workshop.
32. Steel mill.
33. Gas container.
34. Coolers.
35. Switching center of blast furnaces.
36. Blast furnaces.
37. Pre-heaters of air.
38. Electrical cleaner of blast furnace gas.
39. Castings dpt.
40. Switching center of the castings dpt.
41. Foundry and miscellaneous buildings.
42. Private masonry houses

(NOTE: There is no No. 27 in the above legend).

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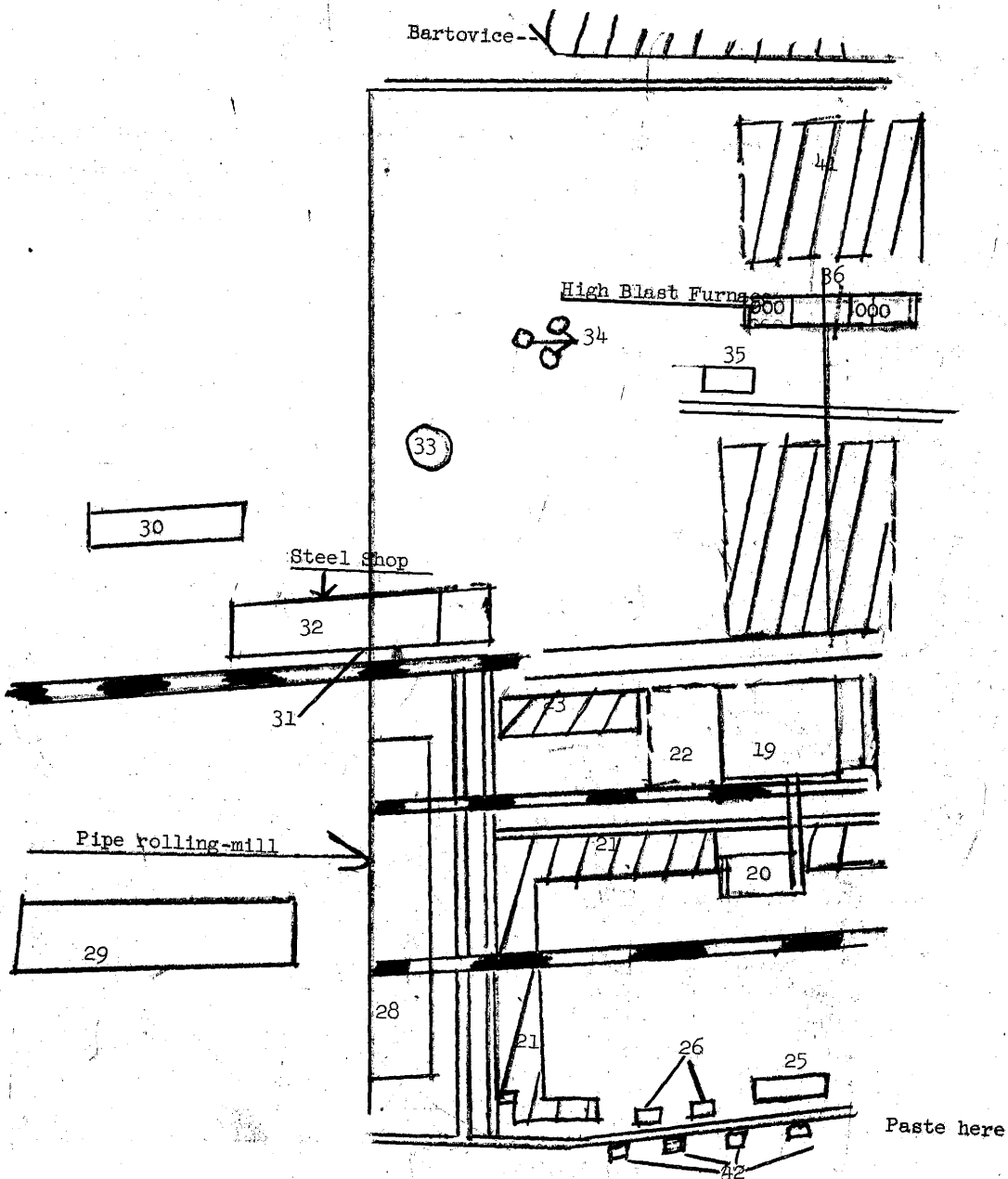
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Annex B

Bartovice--



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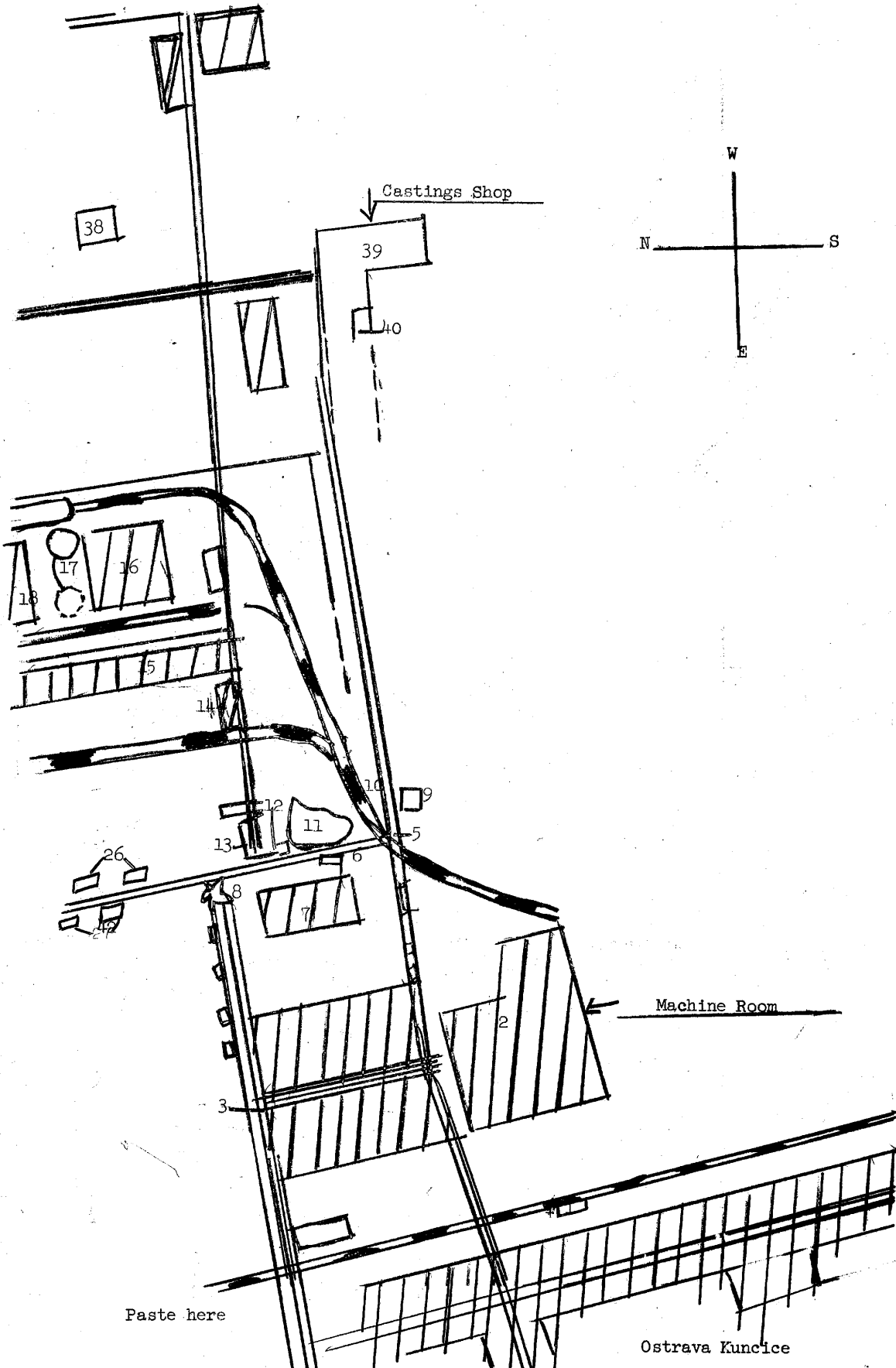
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At Annex B

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